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Alexandria

Writers' program. Virginia

ALEXANDRIA

Compiled by workers of the
Writers' Program of the Work
Projects Administration in the
state of Virginia.

AMERICAN GUIDE SERIES

FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
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PREFACE

This guide to Alexandria is the first book on a Virginia city to be prepared by the Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration. It is also the first Virginia contribution to the American Guide Series, though *The Virginia Guide* and *A History of the Negro in Virginia*—soon to be published—were completed before the Alexandria book was begun.

Because Virginia's northernmost Tidewater area along the Potomac was twice in exile, we are happy to strengthen the ties that bind the regained province to its state, which was never quite content to have Alexandria a part of the District of Columbia and inexpressibly sad during the 'sixties when Alexandria was capital of the "Restored Government of Virginia."

Writing this book, therefore, has been a labor of love. The research was accomplished by several workers under the supervision of H. Ragland Eubank and John Sherwood Widdicombe. The architectural descriptions were written by Mr. Widdicombe. The book was cast into its final form by the state director, with Mr. Eubank and Mr. Widdicombe as consultants. Because much more might have been written about Alexandria, a highly selective method was necessarily used in the presentation of material. Perhaps later we shall be privileged in a longer book to write more about the city that has returned to Virginia—never again, we hope, to be sent into exile.

November 1, 1939.

Eudora Ramsay Richardson, *State Supervisor*

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THE PRESENT SCENE

Alexandria, richest among Virginia cities in old houses of natural charm, is spread out in orderly fashion on ground rising between marshes along the southern shore of the broad Potomac about six miles south of Washington. Its riverfront is washed by tides—not brackish, yet high enough to produce extensive mud flats, over which the city is approached by causeways. The countryside, rolling from the river toward the Piedmont, is lovely in all seasons.

Predominantly a city of wide tree-lined streets, Alexandria was laid out on a strictly gridiron plan. Many of the original brick sidewalks and sandstone curbings remain in the older streets. Cobbled alleys run between poplar-lined brick walls. Brick is everywhere. Thickly set close to the sidewalks are Georgian or early Federal houses of brick, in various mellow shades of red, of gray stucco, or of white weatherboarding and frequently gay with bright-colored shutters. Attractive doorways abound. Many leading into the larger houses are classically framed with excellently-proportioned pediments, and others are recessed with delicate fanlights. Window openings are sharply accented by flat arches of chalk-white stone with heavy keys. A small, low entrance stoop reached usually by a few stone steps parallel to the façade, or by a greater number descending sidewise to the brick walk, is characteristic of smaller houses. Occasional and good examples of Greek Revival architecture provide the only formal porticoes in this city of "town-houses."

In rear gardens mimosas and arbors of grapes and wisteria give shade in sheltered courtyards or sunny gardens. Magnolias and tall box trees grow darkly here and there. Scores of houses from one to nearly two centuries old look as though the families of their builders had cared for them continuously, painting and repairing whenever necessary—and, indeed, in many cases this is true.

The streets running east reach the river abruptly. Probably the most attractive is the final block of Prince Street, sloping its cobbled way down between poplars and two actually "picturesque" rows of odd small houses—of red brick, painted brick, stucco, or white frame—appearing almost Mediterranean with doors and shutters bright green, red, blue, or yellow. The waterfront with wooden wharves is a reminder that Alexandria was once considerable as a port. Ships sailed hence to Europe and the West Indies loaded with grain, tobacco, and other produce and returned with luxuries for the prosperous and lively townspeople. Here was the old fish market abandoned long ago, when hucksters, tricksters, and Punch and Judy shows mingled with the marketers and fishermen. In a few small eating places some likeness can still be found to the jolly barrooms and taverns that once clustered around the port.

Although inconspicuous, except for the second largest freight classification yards in America, industry is substantially present in Alexandria. The most important enterprises are two fertilizer plants, but the largest industry is a plant for the construction and repair of refrigerator cars. Smaller industries include shops connected with the railroads, chemical works, an automobile assembly plant, iron works, foundries, a shirt factory, and brick and pottery works. Altogether, the city's industrial payroll exceeds \$6,000,000 annually, and about thirty-six hundred workers are employed.

HISTORICAL OUTLINE

Though unfriendly Indians postponed settlement of Virginia's uppermost tidewater fringe, in 1608 the inquisitive Captain John Smith explored the Potomac River to its falls. Here, between the Chesapeake Bay and the falls, he found a strip of territory along the south shore called Chickawane by the Indians who occupied it. In 1645 the area became a part of vast Northumberland, the mother of many counties. Soon thereafter the Colonial government made grants of land to prospective settlers.

Since the Dogue, who lived in the vicinity of present Alexandria, could scarcely be viewed as pleasant neighbors, estates here were not immediately settled. The site of Alexandria was included in a patent that Governor William Berkeley issued in 1669 to Robert Howsing for "six thousand acres of land situate lying and being upon the freshes of the Potomac River on the west side." That year Charles II converted all Northern Virginia into the Northern Neck Proprietary. The patent for land a few miles south of Howsing's estate for which John Washington—great-grandfather of George Washington—and Nicholas Spencer applied in 1669 was not granted until 1674 and then as the first proprietary patent issued by Thomas, Lord Culpeper, who had acquired control of the vast domain. John Alexander, who surveyed both grants, purchased the Howsing estate in 1670 and settled just north of the present city.

But life on the southern bank of the peaceful Potomac continued full of hazards: the Dogue persisted in being very bad Indians; and the Susquehannock, having been driven from the North by the Seneca, crossed the river and were guilty of exasperating depredations. A concerted campaign in 1675 conducted against the Indians along Piscataway Creek in Maryland ultimately resulted in the annihilation of the troublesome Susquehannock. Then it was that Colonel John Washington, leading Virginia troops, joined with Maryland forces under Captain John Truman, determined to put an end to marauding. The Susquehannock, justly infuriated because several Indians were murdered during a truce, evaded the militia and attacked Virginia's entire western frontier. Under the leadership of young Nathaniel Bacon, the Susquehannock were routed and permanent settlement was made possible in northern Virginia, though more than a score of years passed before the Dogue were finally driven from the area.

After the turn of the century plantation life in old Chickawane began to assume the even tenor of its Colonial way. Comfortable homes were built; and acres were profitably planted in tobacco, which was rolled in great hogsheads toward the river along ancient Indian trails converted quickly into "rolling roads."

Thomas Pearson, who acquired part of the Alexander tract north of Great Hunting Creek and called his estate Pearson's Island, was among the first to settle where Alexandria now stands. In this northernmost section of Virginia, as elsewhere throughout the colony, no town came immediately into being. In 1730, however, the General Assembly directed that a warehouse be established south of Hunting Creek "upon Broadwater's land." The site having been found unsuitable, in 1732 "a rolling house" that had been built "upon Simon Pearson's land upon the upper side of Great Hunting Creek" was "accounted" a public warehouse. In 1740 a public ferry—a link in the King's Highway, the north-south thoroughfare—was established from "the plantation of John Hareford in Doeg's Neck . . . to Prince George County in Maryland and from Hunting Creek warehouse, on land of Hugh West . . . to Frazier's Point in Maryland." Though other warehouses were authorized on Pohick, Occoquan, and Quantico creeks to the south and "on the land of the Honorable Thomas Lee, Esquire, at the Falls of the Potowmack," by 1742—when Fairfax County was formed from Prince William—Hunting Creek Warehouse held a position of first importance as a place for the inspection, storage, and shipment of tobacco.

The town of Alexandria, named in honor of the pioneer John Alexander, was authorized in 1748. That year the General Assembly, recognizing "that a town at Hunting Creek Warehouse would be commodious for trade and navigation and greatly tend to the ease and advantage of frontier inhabitants," directed that sixty acres, part of the lands belonging to Philip Alexander, John Alexander, and Hugh West "on the south side of the Potomac river" be laid out as a town for the County of Fairfax. Among members of the self-perpetuating board of trustees then created were Thomas, Lord Fairfax, William Fairfax, George William Fairfax, and Lawrence Washington—George Washington's half-brother. The county surveyor, John West, who laid off the sixty acres, was instructed to begin the boundaries "above the warehouse" and extend the line "down the meanders" of the river to a specified point and thence "back into the woods for the quantity aforesaid." Beginning the work the following year, West was assisted by seventeen year-old George Washington. On July 13, 1749, thirty-one of the eighty-four half-acre lots that had been plotted were sold at auction for an average of nineteen and a half pistoles each, a pistole amounting to about four dollars. Among the purchasers were George Washington's half-brothers, Lawrence and Augustine Washington, and several Scottish immigrants who later became Alexandria's leading merchants—among them John Carlyle, John Dalton, and William Ramsay. Two lots, however, were reserved for the market square. Though the town was formally Alexandria, it was for several years colloquially Belhaven.

In 1754 the seat of Fairfax County was established here. Soon Alexandria, favorably situated with respect to trade, outstripped its rivals—Dumfries in Prince William County on Quantico Creek, a town also authorized in 1748, and Colchester on the Occoquan River, which had its beginning four years later. By 1762 all lots in Alexandria were “already built upon, except such of them as are situated in a low wet marsh.” Then, because “divers traders and others” sought sites for homes and business establishments, two new streets were added to the ten originally surveyed by West and Washington.

Alexandria owes its early industrial prosperity to commerce and was soon exporting not only tobacco but quantities of wheat to the West Indies and to England. That flour was being shipped from Virginia as early as 1748 is attested by a law passed that year charging inspectors with the duty of seeing that flour “intended to be exported, or sold for exportation, is clean and pure, not mixed with meal of Indian corn, pease, or any other grain or pulse.” Flour mills, established on the streams nearby, enabled Virginia to free itself from dependence upon Maryland and Pennsylvania millers and helped Alexandria to achieve a prosperity that brought about many a gracious town house still surviving. In 1781 Alexandria was first on Virginia’s flour inspection list. Tobacco, however, kept pace with wheat. The first warehouses proving of inadequate capacity, another was erected in 1764 at Point Lumley. Important among the new wharves that were soon needed was the one built in 1759 by the partners, Carlyle and Dalton.

From the back country great caravans of covered wagons lumbered in, laden with wheat and other cereals, and returned with merchandise from abroad. Accordingly, in 1772 the General Assembly passed an act requiring the counties of Fairfax, Loudoun, Berkeley, and Frederick to lay a special levy upon the tithables to keep in repair the “great and direct roads leading from Vestal’s and William’s gaps” to Alexandria and Colchester, because the roads “from the north western parts” of the colony “by means of the great number of waggons which use the same are rendered almost impassible.”

Travelers who came along these roads to buy or sell or merely to visit were entertained in homes or by hosts of the many taverns that were run for profit and for pleasure. At City Tavern (later Gadsby’s), the Royal George, and the Rainbow Inn citizens and guests drank to the health of loyalist or rebel, swapped merry yarns, and discussed both politics and prices. A legislative enactment of 1752 provided that fairs be held at Alexandria each May and October “for the sale and vending of all manner of cattle, victuals, provisions, goods, wares, and merchandize whatsoever.” Then for five days twice a year all criminals except murderers had need to fear only the punishment inflicted by their own consciences, for the kindly General Assembly enacted that “persons coming to, being at, or going from the same, together with their cattle, goods, wares, and merchandize, shall be exempt and privileged from all arrests, attachments, and executions whatsoever, except for capital offences, breaches of the peace, or for any controversies, suits, and quarrels that may arise and happen during the said time.”

Very early in its career Alexandria played a conspicuous part in epoch-making events. Here it was that George Washington recruited his first command—150 troops whom he drilled in Market Square before leading them in 1754 against the French, “unjust invaders of his Majesty’s lands in Ohio.” Here in 1755 the governors of Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland conferred with the British general, Edward Braddock, concerning the proposed campaign against the French posts on the Ohio. From Alexandria General Braddock started on his ill-fated journey westward. Attached to his staff was young Colonel Washington, who assumed command of the British and Colonial forces after the death of the general.

Times were increasingly troublous in his majesty’s oldest colony. The same Virginia that had fought for representative government under the rule of the London Company, that had dared in 1635 to “thrust out” a royal governor because he refused to listen to the mandates of the people, that had rallied under the banner of America’s first rebel, young Nathaniel Bacon, was leading the colonies in protesting the high-handed methods of an English king. The General Assembly appointed in 1759 a committee of correspondence, which passed on to England the revolutionary thinking of the colonists. In 1763 at Hanover Courthouse, much south of Alexandria but spiritually near, a fiery chap by the name of Patrick Henry, defending the people against the claims of a privileged clergy, hurled blasphemy toward the sacred Crown. Two years later, under the spell cast by the same young man’s oratory, the General Assembly adopted resolutions against the hated Stamp Act. Alexandria listened and applauded. In 1774 when the revolutionary pot was boiling fast and furiously, citizens of Fairfax County assembled at a meeting, over which George Washington presided, and adopted the celebrated Fairfax Resolves, drawn up by George Mason from Gunston Hall nearby, declaring against taxation without representation, favoring a uniform plan of defence, urging that every “little jarring dispute between these colonies should be buried in eternal oblivion,” sanctioning the non-importation agreement, opposing the slave trade, and commissioning George Washington and Charles Broadwater to present to the “Convention at Williamsburg on the first day of August next . . . these resolves as the sense of the people of this country.” When revolution came at last, Alexandria furnished the great military leader, George Washington, whose country home was nearby and who maintained a house within the town.

In 1779 Alexandria was incorporated as a town, its territory having been extended westward to include the present Washington Street, and forthwith elected its first mayor, Robert T. Hooe. After the Revolution the citizens turned again to profitable enterprise and cultural advancement. In 1785 the town’s limits were again extended—southward to Hunting Creek; westward “one mile west of the Courthouse on Market Square; and on the north to Four Mile Run.” That year the General Assembly passed a special act providing for the paving of Alexandria’s principal street. The cobblestones, then laid, were taken up a century later and converted into the bases of monuments and markers. The workmen were Hessian prisoners, whose

labor was procured by Dr. William Brown, one of the first surgeons general of the Revolutionary Army and compiler during the war of the first **American Pharmacopoeia for Use of Army Hospitals**. Other important happenings followed each other in quick succession. In 1783 a Masonic lodge was organized; in 1784 the **Alexandria Gazette** was started, now the oldest daily newspaper of continuous existence in the United States; and in 1785 an academy was founded, to which George Washington made annual gifts. In Alexandria in 1785 took place the epochal meeting between commissioners from Maryland and Virginia, which continued its sessions at Mount Vernon and led to the Annapolis Convention of 1786 and to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia the next year.

Though Alexandria was prosperous in 1790, its inhabitants numbered but 2,748. The year before, moreover, Virginia had given it away as part of the territory, ceded along with Maryland's gift, to form the District of Columbia. Its stable population must have been daily augmented by visitors, for one of its new taverns—the Washington at the intersection of Washington and King Streets—advertised “stabling for a hundred horses,” and another—the Red Lion at the corner of King and St. Asaph Streets—offered “fine carriages, handsome horses and careful drivers” as inducements to attract “genteel boarders.”

During the first ten years of exile from Virginia, however, the town almost doubled its size. Apparently, Alexandria was content at first to belong only to the United States. In 1791 the District of Columbia was laid off—a hundred square miles, the gift of Maryland and Virginia. With fitting Masonic rites its southern corner was marked by a stone, which still may be seen at Jones' Point. The versatile Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick, consulting physician during Washington's last illness and painter of two portraits of Washington, presided over the ceremonies. Dr. Dick's friend, however, the new President of the United States, was away on his grand tour of the Southern states. Incidentally, the Maryland side of the Potomac was chosen for the location of the capital, for President Washington, having been authorized by Congress to select the exact site, feared that he might be accused of attempting to boost the value of his own property. As a part of the District, Alexandria enjoyed a mild boom, with no immediate unpleasant aftermath. Government officials came to live within its corporate limits and built fine homes. On November 23, 1792 the Bank of Alexandria became the first in Virginia, antedating the Bank of Richmond by exactly thirty days.

Though the population and prosperity graphs continued on their upward trend and though Alexandria came unscathed through the War of 1812 by permitting the invaders to help themselves to supplies, nostalgia for the Old Dominion was soon translated into efforts to achieve retrocession of the Virginia part of the District. The movement was temporarily quashed, however, when a few residents met and resolved “That a cession of the people and territory of Alexandria county to the state of Virginia would be injurious to their prosperity and ought not to be made.” Likewise in

1824—the year that Alexandria had its most disastrous fire—a referendum resulted in a victory for the opponents of retrocession. In 1846, however, a second referendum showed how completely sentiment had changed, for the people voted in overwhelming majority to be returned to Virginia. In the words of R. M. T. Hunter before the House of Representatives, the ceded area had “been treated like a child separated from the natural, and neglected by, the foster mother.” In 1847 the General Assembly received its own once again, constituted Alexandria County, and made the town its seat.

Meanwhile, Alexandria had become somewhat an educational center. In 1823 the Virginia Episcopal Theological Seminary was founded nearby. In 1825 a school was begun by Benjamin Hallowell, a Quaker active not only in opposing slavery but in founding a lyceum for the promotion of intellectual pursuits. In 1839 the Episcopal High School had been established on property adjoining the seminary.

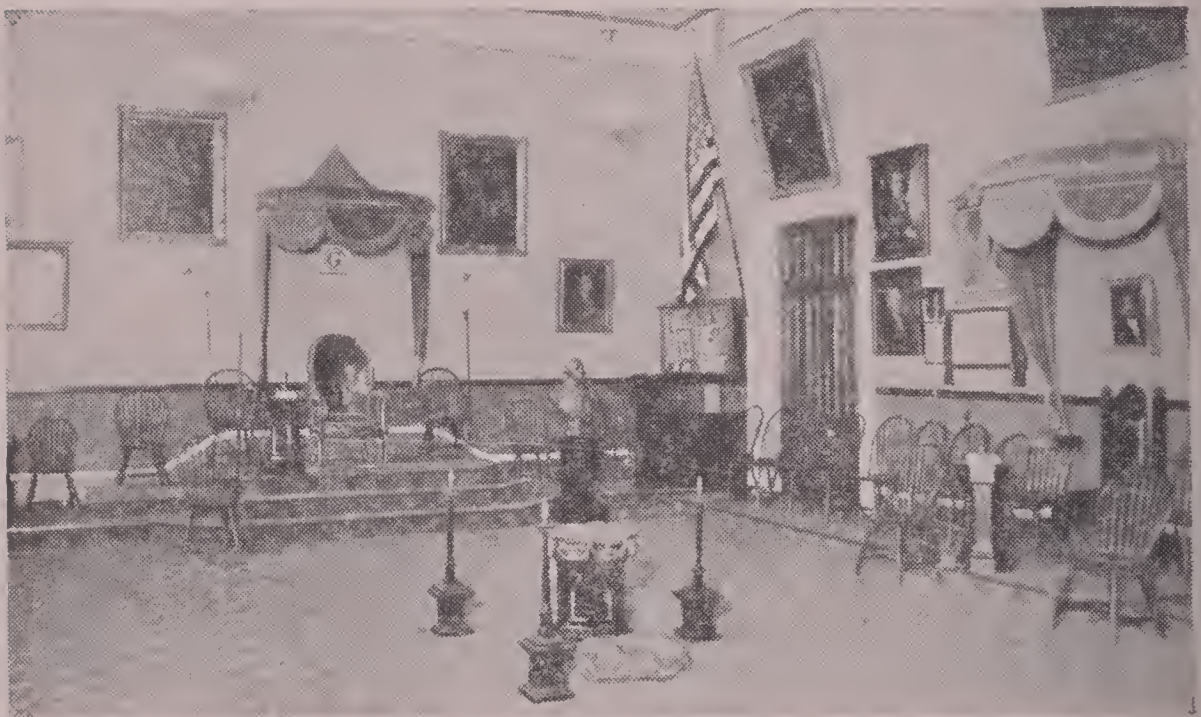
A bigger and better era dawned immediately after retrocession. In 1852 Alexandria acquired the status of city and, like all other cities in Virginia, became politically independent of its county. Two years later the Orange and Alexandria Railroad was opened from Alexandria to Gordonsville, where connection was made by the Virginia Central with the eastern base of the Blue Ridge. In 1860 the population of the city was 12,652.

Yet the preceding year, when United States troops commanded by Colonel Robert E. Lee had gone from Alexandria to Harpers Ferry to quell John Brown's raid, citizens must have sensed, should sectional difficulties result in war, that the situation of Alexandria would be precarious—close as the city was to the national capital. In April, 1861 Robert E. Lee, leaving the community to assume command of Virginia forces, was followed by many Alexandrians, but at the beginning of the war the city was again severed from Virginia and remained in Federal hands until after the defeat of the Confederacy. On August 26, 1863, after West Virginia had been formed and admitted into the Union, with Wheeling as its capital, Alexandria was made the capital of the “Restored Government of Virginia.”

Alexandria's second exile had its compensatory features, for the city escaped the destruction that the rest of Virginia suffered and was spared the horrors of Reconstruction. However, several decades of depression followed the war. The Baltimore and Ohio Railway had diverted the coal trade from Alexandria. Baltimore, with its fleet of clipper ships, waxed while the older city waned. But Alexandria was awaiting a rejuvenation it could not foresee. Good roads and the automobile brought Washington nearer. Americans, having lived through the eras of Victorian atrocities and the bungalow, were again looking with favor upon Colonial and Early Republican architecture. During the World War Washington's new officialdom discovered Alexandria. No wanton prosperity had caused old houses to be destroyed; no industrial boom had marred the pleasant antiquity of the little city on the Potomac. Here was offered escape after work days in the nation's capital; and here was a haven for the retired government official and army officer. Gracious



City Hall and Market House



Alexandria-Washington Lodge Room

mansions and small town houses that had been built in a less hurried age by people of good taste were restored one by one, and new homes were patterned after them. Alexandria lives again, fresh paint upon shutters and beautiful doors, brass knockers shining in the sun, old walnut and mahogany furnishings within the homes, its few scarcely beautiful "flounder-type" houses allowed to remain because they are quaint and peculiarly Alexandrian. The old families and the Foreign Legion, as the newcomers are called, make up the population of a city that is still wholly Virginian.

POINTS OF INTEREST

1. The CITY HALL and MARKET HOUSE (open daily), S. side Cameron St., between Royal and Fairfax Sts., covering half a city block, resembles a series of buildings and encloses a market square. This red brick structure with white trim is designed in imitation of eighteenth century styles. A tall spire on one façade and a section beneath a vast mansard roof on another are centered between corner pavilions.

An acre here was reserved for a market place when the town was laid out in 1749, and after Alexandria was made the seat of Fairfax County, a courthouse (1752-54) was erected upon it. About the same time a market house was built, the ground floor of which was occupied by the town's first school. In 1782, after the town had been incorporated, a town hall, a large brick structure, was built upon a massive arcade in the northwest corner of this square. Extensive additions were made in 1817 and served until the whole structure burned in 1871. The present building arose two years later. When the District of Columbia, including Alexandria, was laid out in 1791, the courthouse was pulled down and the clerk given "leave to use the rooms lately occupied by the Alexandria School as an office for the . . . county records and . . . title to the bricks of the County Court House." The county office remained in the school rooms until 1801, when Congress assumed jurisdiction over the District and the county seat was moved to Providence (now Fairfax). From 1847 to 1898 Alexandria was the seat of the new Alexandria County, renamed Arlington in 1920. A public market has been held regularly on this square ever since the Alexandria fairs—special occasions for trading—were established in 1752.

The ALEXANDRIA-WASHINGTON LODGE OF MASONS occupies the mansard-roofed section of the building on Cameron Street. This lodge was chartered in 1783 as Lodge Number 29 by the "Grand Lodge of Philadelphia in the State of Pennsylvania." Its present charter was granted in 1788 "by Governor Edmund Randolph, Grand Master of the Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Freemasons in Virginia" and "George Washington, Esq., late Commander in Chief of the American forces, and all other brethren as may be admitted to associate with the officers of the fraternity chosen to be a just, true and regular Lodge of Freemasons by the name, title and designation of the Alexandria Lodge Number 22." In 1805, after Washing-



Gadsby's Tavern

ton's death, Randolph as Grand Master issued an order permitting the organization to be designated Alexandria-Washington Lodge Number 22. Meetings were first held at Lamb's Tavern, which stood on Union Street between Prince and Duke Streets, and after Lamb's burned, at other taverns until a Masonic hall was erected on the present site in 1802. Like the town hall, this was incorporated in the enlargements of 1817. This Lodge participated in ceremonies at the laying of the cornerstone of the Alexandria Academy in 1785; when the stone marking the southeast corner of the District of Columbia was laid in 1791; and on September 18, 1793 at the laying of the cornerstone of the Federal Capitol. On the latter occasion, Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick, Worshipful Master, invited Washington, then President of the United States and past Worshipful Master, to conduct the ceremony. The inscribed silver plate that Washington deposited with the cornerstone states that this lodge was present and participated in the ceremony.

Included in the exhibits of the MUSEUM (open 9-5 weekdays; adm. 10c) are the two charters of the lodge; the silver trowel used by Washington in laying the cornerstone of the Capitol; the high-backed, leather-covered chair he presented and used as Worshipful Master; his personal Masonic relics; the clock from Mount Vernon, stopped by Dr. Dick at the moment of Washington's death, with its hands still pointing to twenty minutes past ten. Among several portraits here are two of Washington, an oil by C. P. Polk and a pastel done by William Williams of Philadelphia in 1794 and valued highly as the truest likeness of Washington; an oil of Lafayette at twenty-seven by Charles Willson Peale; a distinguished one of Thomas, sixth Lord Fairfax, by Sir Joshua Reynolds; and two steel engravings: one of Washington by G. W. Ladd and another of Louis XVI, which the king sent to Washington.

The LEAD WEIGHTS AND BRASS MEASURES displayed at the entrance to the lodge rooms are believed to be the only complete set of early English standards in the United States. Each is inscribed "The County of Fairfax 1744."

2. GADSBY'S TAVERN (open 9-5 weekdays, 2-5 Sun.; adm. 25c), 132 N. Royal St., embraces two brick buildings with a courtyard in the rear. The smaller is the older and more handsome. Its two-story façade in neat Flemish bond is cut across by a light stone string-course and broken up by nine rather small windows with heavy flat arches of stone. A refined cornice, with fret-work along the lowest molding and modillions, underscores a gable-roof pierced by three widely spaced dormers, gabled and accented by heavy key-stones. The centered doorway is framed in wood: fluted pilasters supporting a hollow pediment above an emphasized keystone set in the round arch of the transom window. This nicely proportioned entry and the closely spaced windows with large keys in their wing-like flat arches are typical of architectural design in Alexandria during the latter half of the eighteenth century. On the corner of the block next to the older building is the tall, plain annex with three and a half stories beneath its steep gable-roof and with flat brick

arches above its windows. The off-center entrance has been remodelled in Victorian style.

After years of neglect, both buildings—like the courtyard, where an eighteenth-century coach seems again to await horses—are being restored. The fine paneling in the ball room in the corner structure is now in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, but the interiors are still distinguished by the extent and quality of their carved woodwork. Especially noteworthy are several mantelpieces with trim moldings, broken pediments, and graceful supporting consoles. Among rooms already restored are the ancient bar and the kitchen, where a very complete set of appropriate Colonial utensils is on exhibit. Many pieces of late Georgian furniture have been assembled in the tavern.

The original structure, long known as City Tavern, was built in 1752. Here George Washington had his headquarters in 1754 while he assembled and drilled his first command at the beginning of the French and Indian War. The next year General Braddock made this tavern his headquarters. In 1788, when news arrived that New Hampshire and Virginia had at last ratified the Constitution, here was held the banquet of which Washington wrote: "No sooner had the citizens of Alexandria, who are Federal to a man, received the intelligence . . . than they determined to devote the day to festivity. . . . Thus the citizens of Alexandria, when convened, constituted the first public assembly in America which had the pleasure of pouring a libation to the prosperity of the General Government. . . . I have just returned from assisting at the entertainment held at the City Tavern."

John Wise bought the tavern in 1792, built the larger annex, and hung out his shingle proclaiming: "The New City Hotel, at the Sign of the Bunch of Grapes." Two years later, however, he was succeeded by John Gadsby, who presided here until 1818 and achieved a great reputation as host. Robert Sutcliff, the English Quaker, wrote while traveling: "The Inn I slept at is kept by an Englishman by the name of Gadsley (sic), and is conducted in a manner much superior to most inns in this country, or many in England." But John Davis, another English traveler, paid the highest of many compliments Gadsby's received in its heyday when he wrote, "Gadsby keeps the best house of entertainment in America." It was Gadsby's grandson, John Gadsby Chapman, born in Alexandria in 1808, who painted the "Baptism of Pocahontas," which hangs in the rotunda of the national Capitol.

Here Washington attended celebrations of his last two birthdays, on February 12, 1798, and on February 11, 1799. His friends—always observing his birthday according to the old calendar—held the celebration on the 12th in 1798 because the 11th fell on Sunday. One day during the year before his death, orphans from the school he sponsored gathered at Gadsby's before walking in procession to the Alexandria Academy for a "hand out" of clothes he provided. It was at Gadsby's that the Alexandria-Washington Lodge of Masons entertained Lafayette in 1824.

3. The ANNE LEE MEMORIAL HOME FOR THE AGED (open by arrangement), NE. corner Fairfax and Cameron Sts., a four-story block of painted brick, stands on a lot purchased in 1749 by John Dalton, John Carlyle's partner, and occupies the site of two houses—one built by Dalton and another on the corner by his son-in-law, Thomas Herbert, who ran it as a tavern. At different times later both George Leigh and John Wise were hosts here. The Herbert House, as it was originally called, was also known as The Bunch of Grapes. Here on April 16, 1789, George Washington—on his way to New York for the first inauguration—was toasted and publicly addressed for the first time as "Mr. President" by Colonel Dennis Ramsay, Alexandria's mayor.

If ghosts from these merrier times still walk, perhaps they brighten discreetly rather than frighten the ladies who are now cared for here.

4. The BANK OF ALEXANDRIA BUILDING (private), SE. corner Fairfax and Cameron Sts., a small stone structure built in 1792, is now incorporated in a large brick building erected in 1856. Original iron bars are in place across several windows of the present basement. Here the old vault is concealed by a wooden door and protected by a heavy studded iron inner door and thick brick walls.

The Bank of Alexandria, chartered November 23, 1792, was the first to be authorized in Virginia. William Herbert, who married Sarah Carlyle and inherited the Carlyle House, was the town's Mayor (1808-10) and the bank's first president. Other incorporators were Robert T. Hooe, Alexandria's first mayor; Charles Lee, brother of "Light Horse Harry" Lee and, later, second Attorney General of the United States; and the Lees' brother-in-law, Philip R. Fendall. Washington was an original stockholder and a depositor.

The large structure incorporating the little bank building, now an apartment house, was built as a hotel and when acquired in 1861 by a Mr. Green was called Green's Mansion House. In 1883, when it had become the Braddock House, it was advertised as being "the largest and only first Class Hotel in the City" and described falsely as "connected with . . . an old Colonial Stone house built in 1752 of material brought from Europe."

5. The CARLYLE HOUSE (open 9-5 weekdays; adm. 15c), 121 N. Fairfax St., (entrance through Wagar Building), a large stuccoed brick building, stands on a stone platform, which extends out on the east side as a balustraded terrace and once overlooked the river. Dark stone quoining follows up the corners of the two-story house to the eaves of a steep hip-roof, from which dormers protrude. These, like the window enframements throughout, are very simple in design. The front entrance on the west façade, however, is framed in gray stone at the head of a long flight of stone steps and is very imposing, with an elliptical fan-light and with the keystone in the round arch above inscribed with the motto of the Carlyle family: "Humilitate." A wide porch on the terrace side, added long after the house was built, and other modifications have not improved the once dignified exterior, and the house is now closely hemmed-in by commercial buildings on all sides.



The Carlyle House

The fully paneled interior is still distinguished by excellent carved woodwork, especially several mantelpieces and doorways. From the wide hall, which lacks the usual cornice, the stairway climbs in a continuous curve. The Blue Room, still painted Colonial blue, has over both doors pediments broken into sweeping scrolls, an elegant fireplace with pale blue marble facing and pilasters, which frame a molded panel above a shallow mantel, a low dado with Greek-key molding, a deep cornice with modillions and rosettes, and a graceful crystal chandelier. In the basement are dungeon-like cells that are attributed to an early fort but are much more likely spaces in which the builder—the town's leading merchant—stored wines and other wares. A museum since 1914, the house contains a good collection of eighteenth-century American furniture.

The house was built in 1752 by John Carlyle, a native of Dumfriesshire, Scotland, who had come to Virginia in 1740. After helping to start the town of Dumfries to the southward, he helped to found Alexandria. It was not long before this thrifty merchant could afford to shelter himself commodiously. In April, 1755 he offered his new house to General Braddock, Commodore Keppel, and the governors for the conference they held in Alexandria to plan the campaign against the French and Indians. Colonel Washington, whom Braddock had invited to be a member of his staff, was present at the conference. The Blue Room, where the meeting took place, was the scene of social gatherings attended by such notables as George Mason, Thomas Jefferson, Lafayette, Aaron Burr, and John Marshall.

Colonel John Carlyle was commissioned in 1754 commissary of Virginia forces and in 1758 succeeded his father-in-law, Colonel William Fairfax, as collector of His Majesty's revenues for the "South Potomac." In 1773 he completed the building of Christ Church and began construction of the town's first Presbyterian church.

6. The RAMSAY HOUSE (open daily), NE. corner King and Fairfax Sts., the oldest house in Alexandria, is a brick building, two-and-a-half stories high, part of its walls covered with clapboard and part with flush boarding. Its roof is curbed on the front with three nearly flush dormers and slopes away in a broad half-gable to the rear.

The house was built in 1749-51 on one of the town's original lots—No. 47—by William Ramsay, a native of Scotland, who settled here with other Scots: John Carlyle, John Dalton, and John Pagan—all among the town's first trustees. William Ramsay became Alexandria's first postmaster in 1770 and at the first election of "Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Council" in 1780 "Mr. William Ramsay, first projector and founder of this promising city, was invested with a gold chain and medal." His son, Dennis Ramsay, born here in 1756, served as colonel in the Continental Army and in April, 1789 delivered the town's address to Washington when the latter stopped in Alexandria on his way to New York for his inauguration. Colonel Dennis Ramsay participated in the Masonic ceremony at Washington's funeral in 1799 and was one of the pallbearers.

7. The ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE BUILDING, 317 King St., a modern three-story structure of stone is the home of the oldest daily newspaper in the United States. The *Alexandria Gazette* was founded on another site in 1784 by George Richards & Company and was published first on February 5 as the *Virginia Journal and Alexandria Advertiser*. In its second year the young paper reported the meeting of delegates from Virginia and Maryland at Alexandria and Mount Vernon—the conference that led to the Philadelphia Convention of 1787. In 1789 it reported Washington's election and gave an account of his triumphal procession from Mount Vernon to New York when girls strewed flowers in his path. Other papers, under various names, were subsequently started here, but all were soon consolidated as the *Alexandria Gazette and Virginia Advertiser*, which eventually became the *Alexandria Gazette* that survives today. By 1800—about the time consolidation was effected—Samuel Snowden had acquired control of the papers, and the *Gazette* continued under his editorship and those of his son and grandsons until 1911, when the family sold it. The paper's files, kept here in steel cabinets, are unbroken except for a few early issues and those of the 1860's, when, because of the *Gazette's* anti-Union sentiment, Federal authorities suppressed its publication. However, the editor continued with a one-page sheet called *Local News*. In 1862 *Local News* gave an account of the scene in St. Paul's Church, when Federal soldiers dragged the rector from the pulpit to the provost marshal's office for his failure to include in the service the prayer for the President of the United States. The following night Federal soldiers burned the paper's building and plant. But the *Gazette* moved to other quarters and published a small double-sheet.

8. STABLER-LEADBETTER'S APOTHECARY (open 10-4:30 weekdays, adm. free), 107 S. Fairfax St., one of the oldest drug stores in America, was in active operation until 1933 and has been restored by the American Pharmaceutical Association. It occupies the ground floor of a three-story brick building and presents two little bay windows to the street. Among its original equipment are flint glass bottles, mortars with pestles, measures, scales, weights, and thermometers. Old account books and prescription files are also preserved.

Edward Stabler, a Quaker from Petersburg, Virginia, founded the business in 1792 in a shop next door on the corner of King and Fairfax Streets. Although John Leadbetter, who had married the granddaughter of the founder, took charge of the firm in 1852, it was carried on by Stabler's descendants for nearly a century and a half. The account books show that drugs were purchased here by the Washington, Lee, and Fairfax families and by such notables as Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, and John C. Calhoun. A note written by Martha Washington is in the files, and one by Nellie Custis (Mrs. Lawrence Lewis), which reads: "Mr. Stabler will oblige Mrs. Lewis by sending 2 ozs borax, 2 boxes of Lee's pills, 2 boxes such pills as Mrs. Robinson uses, prepared by Mr. Stabler." Robert E. Lee was in this store on October 17, 1859 when Lieutenant J. E. B. Stuart delivered to him orders from the War Department to proceed to Harpers Ferry to suppress John Brown's insurrection.

9. The OLD PRESBYTERIAN MEETING HOUSE (open 9:30-5 daily, April to Oct.; adm. 10c), 321 S. Fairfax St., is a large, rather austere hall of red brick with a broad gable-roof and two tiers of tall windows. A square tower built out at the west end is topped by a latticed balustrade and a square, well-proportioned cupola of wood with pilasters. The handsome white interior—with box-pews, open gallery, and a semi-domed recess in the wall behind the pulpit centered at one end—is simple and dignified.

The meeting house, abandoned since 1886 as a place of worship, was built in 1836 after a former building erected on a different site, though in the same yard, had been destroyed by fire the preceding year. Since Alexandria was founded chiefly by Scottish Presbyterians, a "Presbyterian Society" had been organized here under the leadership of the Reverend David Thom soon after the town was established. The Presbyterians held meetings in the Market House under license of the General Court—though with the injunction that the doors should be kept open. Washington, a communicant of the Established Church, attended the meetings and contributed toward the building of the society's first church. In 1773 Richard Arrell and his wife Eleanor conveyed for the meeting house "in consideration of one shilling sterling the lots 90 and 91 in the plat of Alexandria town" in trust to the Reverend William Thom, who had succeeded his father. Construction of the building, though begun in 1774, was not finished until after 1790 when an act of the General Assembly authorized the trustees to raise by lottery £500 toward "completing the building of a church in the town of Alexandria for the use of the members of the Presbyterian Society." The church had a tower—the first in Alexandria—and in the belfry was hung the town's first church bell, destroyed when the building burned in 1835. The Reverend James Muir (1757-1820), pastor of the congregation from 1789 to 1820, was chaplain of the Alexandria Lodge of Masons and in that capacity participated in the laying of the cornerstone of the Federal Capitol in 1793 and officiated at Washington's funeral.

In the treeless yard is the white marble Table-Tomb of the so-called Unknown Soldier of the Revolution, as are graves of many of the city's founders—among them, those of the Reverend James Muir, Dr. James Craik, Colonel John Carlyle, and Colonel Dennis Ramsay.

10. The CRAIK HOUSE (private), 210 Duke St., a forlorn red brick building, has brick string-courses that mark the floor levels and large dentils along the façade cornice. From the gabled roof project two dormers with round-arched windows.

The house was built about 1790 and was the home and office of Dr. James Craik (1730-1814), who had been assistant director general of army hospitals during the Revolution. Dr. Craik, a surgeon of Scottish ancestry, whom Washington referred to in his will as "my old and intimate friend," accompanied Washington throughout his entire military career, from Great Meadows to Yorktown. He attended the dying Braddock in 1755, saw Hugh Mercer breathe his last at Princeton in 1777, dressed Lafayette's wounds at Brandywine, stood with Washington at the bedside of John Parke Custis



Stabler-Leadbetter's Apothecary Shop



Presbyterian Meeting House

after the Siege of Yorktown in 1781, and it was he who was called early on the morning of December 14, 1799 to administer to Washington in his last illness. "I kissed the cold hand, which I had held in my bosom," he said later, "laid it down, and for some time was lost in profound grief." When Martha Washington died in 1802, he was at her bedside also.

11. The CORYELL HOUSE (private), 208 Duke St., a tottering "flounder" house of frame, leans rather pathetically against the Craik house. Its steep, single-surfaced lean-to roof—low on one side and high on the other—earns for it the descriptive term "flounder," which is applied to several similar houses of brick in Alexandria. It was built in 1790 on a lot once owned by Dr. Craik and was the home of George Coryell, who, with his father, Cornelius Coryell of New Jersey, ferried Washington across the Delaware River on Christmas Eve 1776. George Coryell, whose admiration for Washington led him to make his home in Alexandria, was one of the active pallbearers at Washington's funeral.

12. The ROBERDEAU HOUSE (private), 418 S. Lee St., a three-story brick building with the familiar flat arches of stone above each front window, was built soon after 1783-84 by General Daniel Roberdeau, a patriot in the war for independence and a native of Philadelphia. Roberdeau, of Huguenot descent, headed one of America's first textile mills, founded in Philadelphia in 1775. At the beginning of the Revolution he was appointed brigadier general of Pennsylvania militia. He operated a lead mine and at his own expense furnished bullets for Washington's army. A member of the Continental Congress (1777-1779), he signed the Articles of Confederation and approved Lafayette's application for a commission. After the Revolution, like other followers of Washington, he came to Alexandria to be near his commander-in-chief. Here he introduced one of the town's early industries—the manufacture of leather breeches.

13. The ALEXANDRIA ACADEMY BUILDING (open school hours), SE. corner Wolfe and Washington Sts., is a three-story red brick building with a single chimney on one end of a plain gable-roof. White monolithic lintels over the windows have small ornamental blocks set beneath each end. The chief architectural feature is a nicely-proportioned doorway at one side of the façade.

This house, which once housed the Alexandria Academy, was built by Colonel Philip Marsteller, another Pennsylvanian who served in the Continental Army and after the Revolutionary War made his home in Alexandria. Colonel Marsteller, a member of the Continental Congress from Pennsylvania in 1776, became Alexandria's mayor (1790-92).

The Alexandria Academy was founded in 1785. The cornerstone of its first building, on another site, was laid on September 7th of that year with Masonic ceremonies. When it was incorporated in 1786, George Washington was named in the charter as one of the fourteen trustees. At its founding, Washington had established in connection with the academy a free school—the first in Northern Virginia—"for the education of Orphan and other poor Children." He made an annual contribution to this school until his death, then endowed it in his will.

After many years the old building was pulled down to make room for other buildings, and the academy transferred to this house. It was at this academy that Robert E. Lee received part of his education. The academy continued—except for an interruption during the War between the States—until 1882.

14. The LAFAYETTE HOUSE (private), SW. corner Duke and St. Asaph Sts., is a red brick house of three stories. White trim includes keystone flat arches above pleasantly spaced windows, an oval light in the gable on each side, and a balustrade along the front parapet crowning the façade. The outstanding feature is a wide, round arch that frames the off-center entrance door with fan and side-lights delicately traced. There is a good deal of finely carved woodwork in the interior.

The house, built in 1795 by Thomas Lawrason, is one of the best examples of Federal Georgian architecture in the city. In 1825 Lawrason's widow lent it to Lafayette, who stayed here for some time during his last visit to America.

15. The OLD LYCEUM HALL (private), SW. corner Washington and Prince Sts., is a two-story brick building, stuccoed, painted yellow, and lined to imitate stone blocks. It was built in 1839 and is a good example of the Greek Revival style, rare in Alexandria. The four columns of the tall Doric portico are fluted. A full triglyphed entablature is carried all around. This white-painted trim against the yellow walls gives a serenity that is enhanced by the absence of any lintel effect over the shuttered windows.

The hall was built to house a society organized in 1834, under the leadership of Benjamin Hollowell, the Quaker schoolmaster, to promote interest in literature, science, and history. On the first floor were a library and reading room beneath a hall where lectures were given. Hollowell was the society's first president and delivered the first lecture—on vegetable physiology. Politics and religion were banned. Among other lecturers were John Quincy Adams and Caleb Cushing. During the War between the States the hall was used as a hospital. The Little Theater presents productions here occasionally (1939).

16. The LORD FAIRFAX HOUSE (private), 607 Cameron St., is a large L-shaped town house of red brick—three storied on the street and extended far back into its garden by a two-story wing. String-courses of white stone across the tall façade mark the two upper floor levels. A single blind arch with white-stuccoed surface rises from the first string-course and comprehends the two centered windows of the upper stories. Below is the entrance door deeply recessed within an arched vestibule and flanked by slender pilasters and delicate columns. All the window-heads are arched with brick. The best of the fine interior woodwork is in the drawing room. In this room are pilastered alcoves, a carved mantelpiece, and a Palladian window. A stairway with mahogany banisters winds about an oval well in the hall. Brick stables behind the garden are used now for cars.

The house was built in 1816 by William Yeaton. In 1830 it was purchased by Thomas, Lord Fairfax, ninth Baron of Cameron and son of the

Reverend Bryan Fairfax. Lord Fairfax lived here until his death in 1846, when the house passed to his son, Dr. Orlando Fairfax.

17. The ROBERT E. LEE HOUSE (private), 607 Oronoco St., a pink brick building with white trim, is finished off above its two stories by a neat cornice and a long gabled roof pierced by two dormers far apart. Between them a small classical pediment rises chastely from the roof-line over a slightly projecting central portion of the façade. The Federal Georgian doorway and windows, with flat arches of white stone, are widely spaced. A garden at the rear, covering about an acre, remains almost as it was a hundred years ago. Several mantels and a well-turned staircase grace the interior.

This house, bearing a tablet marked "1795," was begun, it seems, about 1793 and owned in 1795 by John Potts. In 1799 it was purchased by Colonel William Fitzhugh, builder of Chatham (near Fredericksburg). It was here that Washington was entertained for the last time as a guest—on Sunday, November 17, 1799, when he "went to Church in Alexandria and dined with Mr. Fitzhugh." In 1818 Ann Hill Carter Lee moved here with her children from another house in Alexandria, which her family had occupied since 1811. Here Robert E. Lee, then eleven years old, passed the rest of his boyhood. On October 16, 1824 General Lafayette called at this house to pay his respects to the widow of "Light Horse Harry" Lee and met her son, who, as assistant marshal of a parade, had participated in Alexandria's welcome to Lafayette the day before.

18. The HALLOWELL SCHOOL BUILDING (private), 609 Oronoco St., built about 1793, shares a common chimney with its architectural counterpart, the Lee House next door. The brick of this house, however, is sandy-pink, and the trim cream colored.

For many years Benjamin Hallowell conducted here a school that he founded in 1825. Until 1820 the house had been the home of William Hodgson of White Haven, England, who had married Portia, the daughter of William Lee, one of the American envoys to European courts during the Revolution.

Benjamin Hallowell first conducted his classes at another site. His school was attended not only by sons of prominent Virginia families but also by students from Canada and Latin America. Here Robert E. Lee, who lived next door, was prepared for his entrance into the U. S. Military Academy. His son, George Washington Custis Lee, also attended this school before his entrance at West Point.

19. The PHILIP FENDALL HOUSE (private), 429 N. Washington St., is a frame covered brick structure, in early Federal style, with a Victorian front porch. The two full stories of the building are crowned by an attic with latticed windows under the simple eaves and flat roof. The house is lengthened by a gabled rear wing.

The house, built soon after the Revolution, was the home of Philip R. Fendall, an attorney and organizer of the Bank of Alexandria, who maintained his office in a small house on a corner of the lot. Fendall connected



Christ Church

himself twice by marriage with the family of "Light Horse Harry" Lee, having married first Lee's mother-in-law, Elizabeth Steptoe, widow of Philip Ludwell Lee, then "Light Horse Harry" Lee's sister, Mary Lee. In 1792 he deeded the Fendall House to his brother-in-law, Richard Bland Lee, the first to represent this district in the House of Representatives and the one that received the first congressional vote ever cast by a president of the United States. For the next half-century the house was a home of the Lee family. On December 15, 1799 friends assembled here to make arrangements for Washington's funeral.

20. The LLOYD HOUSE (private), 220 N. Washington St., a large house of dark red brick in Federal Georgian style on a square plan, is one of the best examples of domestic architecture in Alexandria. Between pairs of end-chimneys with slightly molded tops, trios of dormer windows relieve the surfaces of the gabled roof. The diminutive pediment forming the gable of each dormer rests upon slender pilasters. The nicely denticulated cornice continues all around and frames the gable-ends. The doorway, beautifully designed with restraint, is flanked by Corinthian pilasters, which support a hollow pediment above a round-arched fan-light. Its design—repeated in the dormers—is among the best in a city of good doorways. Perfectly spaced windows in two tiers—with a flat-arched lintel of chalk-white stone spread above each like a pair of wings—complete a handsome façade. The fine brick work in Flemish bond is matched by interior woodwork in modified Adam style. The stairway, with slender mahogany banisters, runs up three flights, and there are carved mantels in twelve rooms.

The house was built in 1793 by John Hooe and in 1832 was acquired by John Lloyd, in possession of whose family it remained for nearly a century. Only the floors have been reconstructed. The detached slave quarters have been converted into a garage.

21. CHRIST CHURCH (open 9-5 weekdays; adm. 10c; services Sun.) SE. corner Cameron and Columbus Sts., is a dark red brick building in late Georgian Colonial style. The walls, laid in Flemish bond, follow a rectangular plan. Above a cornice with large, widely spaced dentils, a broad hip-roof spreads down from a short ridge. Quoins of white stone accent the vertical corner-line, while keys of similar stone emphasize the brick arches—flat below and round above—heading the windows in two tiers. Centered in the east wall is a dignified Palladian window with four square pilasters supporting a hollow pediment. Centered before the west façade is a square tower—newer than the main structure—topped by an octagonal belfry in three stages—the upper two of white painted wood. Around three sides of the simple white interior extends a balcony beneath a pale blue ceiling. The canopied pulpit, originally against the north wall, is now centered before the middle sash of the Palladian window.

Christ Church first stood just outside of town. Later, when the limits of Alexandria were extended westward, Cameron Street was cut through the churchyard. On January 1, 1767 the vestry of the Fairfax Parish, having decided to replace frame churches with others built of brick, contracted with

James Wren to build a brick church at "the Falls" for £599 and 15s and with James Parsons to build this church for £600, on land conveyed by John Alexander. Parsons, however, failed to fulfill his contract, and his project was completed by Colonel John Carlyle in 1773 for an additional sum of £220. On February 27, 1773 it was accepted as finished in a "workmanlike manner." James Wren was paid £8 for "writing" the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and the Creed on panels, still hanging at each side of the chancel. The galleries were built in 1807 and the tower in 1818.

Pews were sold to the highest bidders. Washington bought his, which is Number 5, for £36. 10s. Colonel William Page was granted the very special privilege of placing a seat inside the chancel, so that his wife, who was hard of hearing, might enjoy the services. Washington's generosity is further evidenced by the wrought-brass and crystal chandelier, which he ordered from England and which was not delivered until almost a score of years after his death. George Washington Parke Custis presented a Bible owned by his foster father and still in possession of the church, though not on exhibit. Robert E. Lee was confirmed at Christ Church. His box-pew and that of Washington are marked by silver plates. Federal soldiers, however, made way with the original Washington plate. During the War between the States, while the church was used as a place of worship by officers and men of the Northern army, three little girls crept in one night and removed the plate from Washington's pew. When they were discovered by officers and asked to explain the theft, one of them answered, "Because we knew you would steal it." The plate was put back, but a few weeks later the girl's prophecy was fulfilled.

22. FRIENDSHIP FIRE ENGINE HOUSE (open occasionally, adm.10c), 107 S. Alfred St., is a little building of red brick with classical trim painted white, except for cast-iron acanthus leaves topping the stone pilasters that form the jambs of the wide door and iron ornaments upon the projecting lintels of two tall windows above. The black figures "1774," indicating the year the fire company was organized, are set in the low pediment above the door and again on the square wooden base of a tall octagonal cupola.

The building, erected after the Revolution, housed the equipment of the town's first fire company, of which Washington was a member and once honorary captain. On exhibit is a copy of the engine Washington purchased in Philadelphia while attending the first Continental Congress in 1774 and presented to the Friendship Fire Company. The original, sold in 1849 to a junk dealer, was bought by the Veteran Firemen's Association of Baltimore and is now in a museum in that city. The Friendship Fire Company first had its station in a frame building on the Market Square. After its organization other fire companies were formed, and there was much rivalry among the companies. Each volunteer fire fighter pledged himself to furnish two buckets and an osnaburg bag—the buckets for handling water and the bags to gather small household effects in the event a house could not be saved. Parades of the companies on Washington's birthday, with full equipment and with each member in uniform, were annual events.

23. The GEORGE WASHINGTON MASONIC NATIONAL MEMORIAL TEMPLE (open 9-5 daily), on Shooter's Hill, intersection King St. and Russell Rd., stands upon the site first proposed for the national Capitol and vetoed by Washington for personal reasons. It is a sandy-gray stone monument in neo-classic style. Resting on a massive square base-structure, from the center of which a full Doric portico juts, a great tower rises through three diminishing stages to a stepped pyramid. The pinnacle is more than four hundred feet above the summit of the terraced hill and commands an imposing prospect on every side, including within its sweep many of the historic places associated with the memory of Washington.

In 1909 Charles H. Callahan of Alexandria conceived the idea of a great national monument to George Washington, the Mason. At a meeting of the Alexandria-Washington Lodge in 1910, such a monument got definitely under way. Ground was broken on June 5, 1922, and the cornerstone was laid November 1, 1923. Designed by Helmi and Corbett, architects, of New York, and costing \$5,000,000 contributed by more than 3,000,000 Masons, the temple was dedicated February 22, 1932. It contains, in addition to the memorial hall, a large auditorium and ample space for offices, a library, and a museum, which will house, when the structure is entirely completed, the collection of portraits and various relics now displayed in the museum of the Alexandria-Washington Lodge of Masons.

POINTS OF INTEREST IN ENVIRONS

(Mileage from intersection of King and Washington Streets)

Mount Eagle (Lord Fairfax Country Club), southward on US 1 to entrance, 1.5 m.; Woodlawn, to entrance, 8.8 m.; Fort Belvoir, to entrance, 9 m.; Mount Vernon, southward on Mount Vernon Memorial Highway to entrance, 9.4 m.; Washington Golf and Country Club, southward on US 1 to State 9, then (R) on State 9 to entrance, 9.8 m.; Arlington, Arlington National Cemetery, and Fort Myer, northward on Mount Vernon National Highway to entrance, 7.5 m.; Episcopal High School, westward on State 7 to entrance, 3 m.; Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary, to entrance, 3.2 m.; Falls Church, 8.8 m.



George Washington Masonic National Memorial Temple

GENERAL INFORMATION

Railroad Station: Union Station, W. end of King St., for Atlantic Coast Line R. R., Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac R. R., Chesapeake & Ohio Ry., Seaboard Air Line Ry., and Southern Ry.

Bus Station: NW. corner Washington and King Sts., for Greyhound Bus Line.

Airport: Washington Airport, 4 m. N. on US 1, for Eastern Air Lines, American Airlines, and Pennsylvania-Central Airlines; Taxi fare, \$1.25.

Taxis: Fare 20c within city limits, \$1.50 to Washington.

Local Buses: SE. corner Pitt and Cameron Sts., for buses to Washington, schedule varies from 5 to 10 minutes, fare 15c; to Mount Vernon, schedule varying with season, fare 25c; to Episcopal Theological Seminary, 30-minute schedule, fare 10c.

Piers: Norfolk and Washington Steamboat Co., E. end of Prince St., for boat to Old Point Comfort and Norfolk, daily (except when river is frozen), 7 p. m. schedule, fare \$4, staterooms \$1 to \$5, automobile \$1.

Traffic Regulations: No U-turns in business district, other turns on green light; one hour parking limit on King St.

Accommodations: Four hotels; tourist homes.

Radio Station: WJSV (1460 kc.).

Information Service: Chamber of Commerce, 103 N. Alfred St.

Motion Picture Houses: Four for whites, one for negroes.

Golf: Belle Haven Country Club, 0.5 m. from city limits on River Rd., 9 holes, adm. by arrangement, greens fee \$1.50 Mon.-Fri., \$3 Sat., Sun., and holidays.

Swimming: Alexandria Municipal Pool, NE. corner Cameron and Harvard Sts., fee 20c, children 10c, suits 25c, open 9 a. m. - 10 p. m. weekdays, 2-6 Sun., from May 30 to Labor Day; Belle Haven Country Club, fee 50c.

Tennis: Belle Haven Country Club, fee 50c; Lord Fairfax Country Club, 1 m. S. off US 1 (R), 4 courts.

Boating: Rowboats rented at foot of Prince St. and foot of Duke St., fee 50c for 1st hour, 35c each additional hour.

Annual Events: Tour of historic houses and gardens near-by, sponsored by St. Paul's Church and the Alexandria Association, one Sat. in May and one Sat. in June, dates varying according to season, \$1 for full day and afternoon tea.



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